

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 L-02

 NSC-05 SS-15 INRE-00 /055 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6501

INFO FAA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

FAA BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS PARIS 03328

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR:VIOLATION OF US FEDERAL AVIATION
REGULATIONS BY AIR FRANCE

REF: DEPT.'S A-9446 (NOTAL)

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATION IN PARIS WITH JACKSON,
PRESIDENT OF SEABOARD WORLD AIRLINES' AND SEABOARD'S
GENERAL MANAGER FOR FRANCE, THEY COMPLAINED TO US OF
CONTINUED VIOLATION OF FAA SAFETY REGULATIONS BY
AIR FRANCE, NOTABLY IN SHIPMENT OF BUTANE GAS CIGARETTE
LIGHTERS TO US. SEABOARD SHIPMENTS OF LIGHTERS IN
ACCORDANCE FAA REGULATIONS REQUIRED MUCH LARGER VOLUME,
MEANING THAT SEABOARD COULD NOT COMPETE WITH AIR FRANCE
QUOTATIONS OF AIR FREIGHT CHARGES TO EXPORTER. WE
INFORMED SEABOARD REPS THAT EMBASSY UNDER INSTRUCTIONS
(REFAIR) HAD RECENTLY FORWARDED TO GOF CIVAIR
AUTHORITIES FAA COMPLAINT AGAINST AIR FRANCE ON THIS
VERY SUBJECT. WE SUGGESTED SEABOARD ALERT US IN
FUTURE TO ANY EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED VIOLATION OF FAA
SAFETY REGULATIONS BY AIR FRANCE, WHICH EMBASSY WOULD
PROMPTLY BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE US
AUTHORITIES.

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2. SEABOARD'S GENERAL MANAGER PHONED US THIS MORNING TO REPORT THAT ANOTHER SHIPMENT OF BUTANE GAS LIGHTERS CONSIGNED TO BOSTON HAS BEEN READIED AND WILL PROBABLY BE SHIPPED VIA TODAY'S FLIGHT AF 1301 TO JFK OR TOMORROW'S FLIGHT AF 1305 TO BOSTON. LIGHTERS ARE PACKED IN CARTONS WHICH ARE STACKED ON WOODEN SKIDS AND SECURED WITH NYLON CORD. ENTIRE SHIPMENT CONSISTS OF FOUR COMPACT PALLETS. AIRWAY BILL NO. IS 057/60523525- (SEABOARD REP SAID THAT TO COMPLY WITH FAA REGULATIONS SUCH SHIPMENT WOULD REQUIRE AT LEAST TEN PALLETS.)

3. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED ANY RESPONSE TO OUR LETTER OF JANUARY 9 WHICH TRANSMITTED TO SGAC VIOLATION REPORTS SENT US UNDER COVER OF REPAIR. (COPY OF OUR LETTER WAS ALSO SENT TO FOREIGN MINISTRY.) SINCE THERE HAS BEEN AMPLE TIME FOR SGAC TO FOLLOW UP WITH AIR FRANCE TO ENSURE THAT CARRIER NO LONGER VIOLATES FAA REGULATIONS IN SHIPPING LIGHTERS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT VIOLATION REPORT HAS GONE UNHEEDED.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT FAA MEET AIR FRANCE FLIGHTS CITED PARA 2 ABOVE AND VERIFY MANNER IN WHICH LIGHTERS WERE SHIPPED. IF AIR FRANCE IS FOUND TO BE AGAIN IN VIOLATION, WE RECOMMEND, QUITE APART FROM WHATEVER ACTION MIGHT BE WARRANTED AGAINST CARRIER IN THIS CASE, THAT WE BE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE FIRM DEMARCHE TO SGAC INSISTING THAT IT ENSURE FULL COMPLIANCE WITH FAA SAFETY REGULATIONS BY AIR FRANCE FOR FREIGHT SHIPMENTS TO US AND THAT IT INFORM US THAT SUCH ACTION HAS INDEED BEEN TAKEN.
RUSH.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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